

THE OLDTIMER

Volume 31, Number 3

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

August, 1996

We have a date

AUGUST

■ **August 13-17.** As always the society will have a photo display at the Josephine Co. Fair. Volunteers get free admission to the fair. Sign up for a four-hour shift if you can.

■ **All month.** Pat Bristol will have cool stuff in the cases at Evergreen Federal.

SEPTEMBER

■ **September 14** the bus departs at 9 a.m. to Eagle Point and historical sites between. See page 6 for all the details.

■ **Mystery Fundraiser.** Keep an eye on the Mondays Make History's box for details.

OCTOBER

■ **October 5.** Heritage Days celebration with living history tour of Historic G Street district.

NOVEMBER

■ **November 16** is the annual meeting, 1 to 4 p.m. The program for the potluck includes presentation of new officers, one last time at the Izaak Walton building.

For information on any of these events call 479-7827.

Profile

Laurels to a long-time member

By Tommy Thompson

Editor's note: As the winner of this year's Pauline Meade Shier award for her dedication to documenting history, Edna May Hill was chosen as this issue's profile. Tommy Thompson, a long-time friend and society member, offered to write this personal tribute.

One of the things I like about Edna May Hill is her interest in sharing with me the rolling credits of a movie we have seen. Countless times we've been left alone as the final credit faded from the screen. We'd usually exit to the clattering of the tinny scoop that picked up the debris tossed by the audience.

Edna May has never been one to lack interest in almost all things. It could be an air show, any phase of local history, new books or in the endeavors of her Grants Pass P.E.O. Sisterhood.

When the Josephine County Historical Society was at its lowest nadir, atop the old Josephine County Hospital, Pauline Shier and Edna May joined to hold the unraveling society together. In that dark, dismal, large ex-kitchen and dining area, Pauline and Edna May lifted, filed and made available to infrequent historians a staggering mound of



Edna May Hill with fellow history buffs Tommy Thompson, left, and Larry McLane.

artifacts and treasures threading through many years of Southern Oregon history. It was noble duty done by them and, in many ways, bridged a perilous time for the Josephine County Historical Society.

After the gracious gift of Anna and Flora Schmidt's home to the society, Edna May did not allay her devotion and thoroughness to chronicling the colorful history of our area. Her "Josephine County Historical Highlights" (Volumes I and II) are classic narrations in their way and probably are the most requested books from the Josephine County Historical Research Library. She continues her style of diligent search and absorbing prose on society-originated

See HILL page 2.

Inside:

Letters to the editor	2
In the community	3
Pioneer meeting	3
History at the center	4-5
Mystery page	6
From the bookshop	7

Cemetery society invites new members

The Friends of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, one of the historic resting places in our county, elected new officers in June who are dedicated to getting new members and volunteers to help clean up the cemetery — clearing

brush and high grass so that all the stones can be seen and read easily.

New officers include Dolores Campbell as president and our own Darrel McLane as secretary and Larry McLane as historian.

The group met in June for a major cut, saw and stack session.

Anyone interested in being informed on the cemetery society's schedule and plans should call Darrel or Larry at 479-2069.

Hill continued from page 1

requests for the never ending quest into years gone by. Edna May will always be a historian. A devoted one.

I've served on committees with Edna May. When times came that a committee task or assignment was being shunned by others, she would come through with her "I'll do it." She wasn't doing anyone a favor — she answered a beckoning of history and the proper setting down of it.

For Larry McLane's book, "First There Was Twogood," a shining constellation of vibrant history that surrounds us, I was asked to draw maps. I called on Edna May to make sure my lines and facts jibed. She proved a most capable editor, many times setting me straight, no matter how strenuously I fought off error. Her favorite advice upon finding I had misspelled or roamed was "Look it up." Edna May has many friends, the two most staunch are the dictionary and the encyclopedia. That, I believe, came from her many years seeking for others on the research shelves of the Josephine County Library — a job she has mentioned to me that she loved.

Edna May, through many years of painstaking search and countless letters of inquiry has passed on to her beloved family a true treasure. In spring of 1993 she completed "The Seyberts," a chronicle of her family history. The span is incredible: In the first pages, the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) is noted and the volume, born out of years of devotion and pride, draws to its admirable conclusion in 1992. Of all the writing, research and worship of the written word, "The Seyberts" must be her masterpiece. It shows on every page.

Often times, when we were sharing time on our various projects, Edna May would draw things to a close by serving a bowl of her better-than-gourmet split pea soup. If she had answered yes to my question, "Did you split the peas?" I'd not have been surprised.

Letters to the editor

Josephine Co. Historical Society:

Governor John Kitzhaber has declared the month of September 1996 as Genealogy Month.

We at Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Inc., invite you to join us in this celebration. We have also planned special activities in our library, located at 133 S. Central Ave., Medford, for the week of September 9th through the 14th which our mayor, Jerry Lausman, has declared as Genealogy Week. We invite you to share in our activities.

Sincerely
Marie Trautman,
corresponding secretary of
RVGS



Dear Historical Society staff:

My book has been very demanding, but I couldn't let another day go by without letting you know how much I appreciated your assistance when I dropped by the library. The newspaper clippings and the 1935 Courier were invaluable. I also followed up on your suggestion to talk to Edna May Hill and I had an enjoyable time meeting her.

Thanks again for your help. Without people such as you I could not write this book.

Warmest regards,
Kathleen Wiederhall



THE OLDTIMER

is the newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society,
508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.
(541) 479-7827



Annual membership dues are \$15 and include a subscription.



Edith Decker — editor
Lee Ann Tardieu & Joan Momsen
publishing committee chairmen



The circulation of The Oldtimer is 650. It is published quarterly. The publishing committee also produces an annual calendar, mailed free of charge to all members of the society.

Report on pioneer gathering

By Larry McLane

Darrel Bell of Sunny Valley and I went to Dallas, Oregon, on June 22 to observe the 150th anniversary of the finding of a southern route to the Willamette Valley.

Present were over 250 direct descendants of the wagon train of 1846 — led by 15 men — plus another 100-plus people who are just interested in the wagon train's history.

Arlie Holt, the organizer of the event for the Polk County Historical Society, did a marvelous job of getting so many

together for this gala affair.

I was asked to speak at the event on plans for the Applegate Trail Interpretive Center celebration in Sunny Valley and the theme of Martha Leland Crowley dying and the naming of Grave Creek.

Of course I invited everyone in earshot to the October 19 grand opening to be held in Sunny Valley and many of those present vowed they would come.

Holt later called to say that carpooling organization was already in full swing to be sure anyone who wanted to would be able to get south for the event.

New research library needs water, sewer lines

Our library contains a treasure of research materials, but currently they are crowded in the barn at the back of the Schmidt House until we have raised funds to continue the renovation of the house next door, donated to the society by the Ken Roberts Co.

Recently we featured a story in the Mondays Make History series on the History of Copeland's and mentioned that their generous donation of paving the parking lot could not begin until we had raised \$3,000 to put in water and sewer lines. Several readers responded with contributions; however, we are still \$2,580 short of the goal. We are now asking our membership to help meet this need. Any contribution, large or small, will be appreciated. Please mail contributions to the society at 508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

In the community

■ **DRESS UP DAY.** Mike Oaks, Claudette Pruitt and John Cova dressed up in period costumes to talk about the buildings and people of Historic G Street for the Amazing May Days Celebration organized by the Grants Pass Visitors and Convention Bureau. If you missed this one, make sure you catch their next presentation during Heritage Days in October. Anyone wishing to join this merry band of outlaw historians (well not TOO outlaw) should call 479-7827.

■ **WE SANG OUR HEARTS OUT.** In July the Schmidt House hosted a "new" old-fashioned community sing for the First Friday Art Night, a monthly event to promote the arts in Grants Pass. Thanks to Mike Oaks, Trisha Wolke and Kathryn Robinson for their time and talent in leading the singing of patriotic tunes and old favorites and to Larry's Music for the use of the keyboard.

■ **A QUICK DRAW.** The Applegate Trail drawings created by Pat Brisol for the 1996 calendar were once again featured — this time in a display done for the Rogue Music Theatre's "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" held at the RCC Bowl. The musical takes place during the Oregon Trail days. You may have noticed that her drawings were also used in the last voter's pamphlet. This continues a tradition of the society or its members providing art — more often in the form of photos from our collection — for the cover. This honor is thanks to Georgette Brown.

■ **STUDENT WORKER JOINS STAFF FOR SUMMER.** There's a new face in the office and a new voice on the phone — a young face. Corryn Berta, a sophomore at North Valley High School, has been placed by the Job Council (which is paying her salary) at the society office until August 15 to learn some job skills and help us out.

Edward Jones

Gary Black, Jr.
Investment Representative


Edward D. Jones & Co.
117 N.W. 7th St.
Grants Pass, OR 97526
Bus 541 479-6432 Res 541 479 7362

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871



EVERGREEN
Person-To-Person
BANKING

969 SE Sixth St., Grants Pass 541/479-3351

ROE MOTORS inc201 N.E. 7th St.
Grants Pass, OR 97526Ross N. Roe
President476-7701
or 779-7153
Eves: 476-7251
Nat'l Wats: 1-800-624-4451CADILLAC • BUICK • PONTIAC • OLDSMOBILE • GMC TRUCKS
Your  Department StoreMichael Peil
President1304 N.W. 6th St.
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526(541) 474-7278
FAX (541) 474-7106

History at the center

The drunken bricklayer... and naming Galice

Once again Larry McLane, searching out amusing clippings of crime and corruption from the old West, has come upon a good story:

From the Aug. 2, 1903, Oregon Observer:

Bad Saloon Fight

Charlie Boulware imbibes too much bad whiskey and creates sensation — caught after fight with officers

Charlie Boulware, a brick mason of this city, took aboard too much liquor Wednesday, got "full seas over" and created quite a furor in the Oregon Saloon. Ordinarily Charlie is a good citizen, but when he imbibes too freely he is very much like other men in the same condition. So it was with him Wednesday. He "bucked" one of the slot machines in the Oregon and went behind as fast as he could, put his money in the slot and turned the

wheel. Then he got mad and issued a verbal decree that all slot machines, in that one place at least, must go.

He later returned with a sledge hammer and would have soon made short work of the machines had not the Walters boys and other bystanders interfered. Boulware then declared he would get something more effective.

This time he returned with a "big mutton leg" revolver and made such a free display of it in the saloon that there was a wild scramble for shelter on the part of the inmates of the place. The bad man was followed up by John Lockhart and finally captured while holding a pointed argument with the driver of the Grants Pass laundry wagon. In order to get his gun from him the officer found it necessary to give him several hard raps on the head.

Boulware was taken to the city jail

to await an appearance before the police judge.

He was later released on bonds and proceeded to lay brick again next day at the George Hansen building.



The following article was written by the subject of McLane's latest book, Jimmie Twogood. (Note that James Vannoy, James Tuffs, Barney Simmons and Jimmie Twogood were the first prospectors on Galice Creek in 1852.) The date was Jan. 18, 1895; it's a reprint in the Gold Beach paper of something in the Grants Pass Courier.

Galice Creek

This famous mining camp where thousands of dollars of the precious dust has been taken out is one of the earliest discoveries of Josephine County. Its name "Galice" is jargon for grease and the creek owes its name

Bonded

CCB #98121

ZODIAC GARDENS

Nancy Campbell
474-4658...the old fashioned way
Landscape Maintenance

Once-in-a-Blue Moon Finds

BUY • SELL • TRADE
CONSIGN • APPRAISALS
ESTATES BOUGHT

Ward & Patricia Warren

220 S.W. 6th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526
474-MOON/474-6666

Seventh & Midland Branch
476-1401

Fruitdale Branch
476-1177



Valley of the Rogue Bank

Seventh & Midland, Grants Pass, OR • 1040 Rogue River Hwy., Grants Pass, OR

Continued from page 5.

to an incident of pioneer times. In 1854 Barney Simmons, a packer, was running a mule train into the mining camps above the Rogue River and carried all the provisions and supplies to the miners on this famous creek. Indians were plentiful and on every trip into the creek an old chief would besiege Simmons' camp and beg for "muck a muck" or victuals, and in making his demand, he showed a strong preference for bacon. Packers were a good natured, generous set of individuals and Simmons was no exception to the general rule, but to be besieged by the old bummer at every trip in, he concluded to fill him up for once. He had in his cargo a lot of fat side bacon and when the old Indian came into camp about suppertime and called for muck a muck, Simmons and the boys told him to be seated. They cut a long strap from a side which the old fellow seemed to relish. Before this was out of sight its mate was placed in the hands of the brave who accepted it with satisfaction. At least he expressed himself satisfied with the generous allowance which had been given him and when Simmons persisted in forcing on him another long strap of that fat meat, he said "wake tickey" which meant he did not want any more; but he had "reckoned without his host." Simmons drew his six shooter and cocked it on him and said you old ----, now eat this or I'll mamaloose you. The old fellow was compelled to eat strap after strap until nature rebelled against it. The old fellow was then allowed to depart and muttered as he went "heap too much glease." He was ever afterward known as old Galice and the creek took his name.

PHOTO DEN
CAMERA



Heritage Square
315 S.E. 7th Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

(503) 479-7595

"No Body Cares More About Your Image"

CLARK'S INSURANCE, INC.

"Service is the Key since 1930"



Imagine Competitive Rates
& Personalized Service
Four Generations
Going Strong

HOME • AUTO • LIFE • BUSINESS

620 S.W. 6th St.
Grants Pass, OR

Jeff Clark • Cella Clark
Irene Christie • Sue Klumph
Jim Clark • Leroy Tipton

476-7715

From the collection



Old soldiers

"From the collection." features interesting items in the care of the society. Some may be recent acquisitions or some may be long held by the society.

One of the highlights of the children's room in the Schmidt House is the collection of stand-up soldiers all in various uniforms, but all perfectly straight and somber.

The collection belonged to Herman Schmidt, the youngest son — and may have belonged to his father.

GARY PETERSON

ASPHALT
& CONCRETE **PAVING**

479-2981

910 Southeast "M" Street

Redimix Concrete • Septic Tanks • Sewer Hookups
Residential • Commercial

Mystery photo:

This photo says "Red Cross 1917." Any idea who these devoted ladies were? Perhaps they're carding and spinning for the Doughboys?



Reproductions of this and other cool photos from our files are available from the research library.

ROGUE VALLEY BUS TOUR? SIGN ME UP!

Mail this form to Josephine County Historical Society, 508 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the historical bus tour on Sept. 14.
Enclosed is my check for \$____. (Cost is \$18 per person.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Bus tour's schedule set

Mike Oaks, the tour leader, reports that the bus will leave at 9 a.m. sharp on September 14th from the Schmidt House.

He'll discuss points of interest on the way to historic Eagle Point, including the Antelope Creek Covered Bridge. The gang's first stop will be the Butte Creek Grist Mill, built in 1872 and still in operation. The general store, with its display (best in the West) and the Eagle Point Museum are also on the route. There's no charge for admission.

Lunch will be spent in Eagle Point — "bag it or buy it" he says — noting that there's a nice park or three restaurants (Chinese, Italian and a small deli) within a few blocks of the park.

From Eagle Point the bus leaves for Jacksonville. Along the way, Mike will point out more historical sites. The cemetery is the starting point for a discussion of the many pioneers who lived and (obviously) died in the valley. Then Beckman House and a living history tour before leaving. That tour price is included with bus tour admission, \$18.

He promises to have everyone back by 5 p.m. — in plenty of time to get home before curfew. The bus'll fill up so sign up now.

Words from the bookshop

Sale on gifts, books

By Evelyn Davis

There's not only gold in them thar hills — there's a gold mine in your own Josephine County Historical Society bookshop.

For example, there's a gold miner panning along the Rogue — or maybe it's Galice Creek — striking paydirt in the society's logo. That logo is on coffee mugs and T-shirts that are now reduced for quick sale.

The mugs are \$3 and the remaining shirts in stock are \$5. They're great gifts for fellow society

members or yourself. And if you come by the Schmidt House with visitors from out of town this summer, they're great souvenirs.

Also there are great bargains on books about Oregon. Here are those on sale now:

■ Potter: "Oregon's Golden Years," \$7.50.

■ Friedman: "Oregon for the Curious" \$5.50.

■ Friedman: "Tracking Down Oregon," \$5.50.

■ Friedman: "This Side of Oregon," \$6.50.

So stop by and see us.

When you've read it, give the Oldtimer to a friend

I would like to be a member

Please enroll me as a member in the Josephine County Historical Society. Credit my new membership to: _____

Enclosed are my annual dues of:

☐ \$15 (individual)

☐ \$55 (corporate)

☐ \$25 (family/school)

☐ \$100 (sustaining member)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Mail to: Josephine County Historical Society,
508 SW Fifth St. Grants Pass, OR 97526

Naming contest!

Several members have suggested the name Oldtimer might be putting off younger members or even would-be younger members who might read some cool stuff within these pages — except the name's a bit dusty.

So this is your chance to go down in history, so to speak, as the person who thought up the brilliant new name for the Josephine County Historical Society Newsletter. Just to get you started, here's a list of rejected names:

Better Read than Dead (Nope, too scary)

High Society (unsavory connotations)

The History Channel (it's taken)

Hey, You can do better than any of these. If you prove it and we pick it, you'll win a historical society coffee mug — and the admiration of your peers, which is not to be sneezed at.

To enter:

Send your idea in to the society office with: Your name idea(s), your own name and phone number. Give us more than one idea if you're on a roll.

Mail it to:

The Name Game
Josephine County Historical Society
508 S.W. Fifth St.
Grants Pass, OR 97526
Or drop it by the office.

SWISSMETRIC

1610 Parkdale Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527
503 476-1771
Fax 503 479-2816

W.A. (AL) TILLERY



House of Insurance

HOME • AUTO • COMMERCIAL • LIFE

243 S.W. "J" Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

(503) 479-2666

In memorium

Friends, board and staff of the society are always saddened by the passing of members and colleagues.

We list their names to honor their lifetime interest in history and their work, contributions and support. Each of them has made a difference in the preservation of our heritage.

Fred Espy, for example, contributed a parcel of timberland on Brimstone Creek which had been in his family since the 1880s to be shared by the historical society and the humane society. This gift continues to provide both groups with a growing renewable resource. A generous gift such as this is a lifeline to a non-profit organization and generations to come will be deeply grateful.

You, too, can make a difference by remembering the historical society with a planned gift through your will or living trust of securities, money, real estate or a percentage of the residue of your estate. After the needs of your family are met, please consider a planned gift that will help preserve the past for the future.

The society regrets to inform the membership that the following members have passed away since our last newsletter:

Fred Espy



Lena Tycker Payne



Ruth Morrison



Delores Johnson



Ann Thill



Rod Hoskin



THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

Josephine County Historical Society
Schmidt House
508 SW Fifth Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-profit Organization
Permit No. 174
Grants Pass, OR 96526



Eagle Point. Hist. Soc.
P.O.Box 201
Eagle Point OR 97524

Exp: —